

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record discloses a package containing a food product but fails to disclose an absorbent pad comprising an upper web comprising a flexible film, a liquid – permeable lower web comprising nonwoven fiber having a hydrophilic composition, and an absorbent layer between the upper web and the lower web, wherein the upper and lower webs each extend outward of the absorbent layer, the upper and lower webs being attached to one another around an entire perimeter portion of the pad, with the upper and lower webs together surrounding and containing the absorbent layer, and the package further comprising modified atmosphere or vacuum. The phrase 'upper web' is interpreted to mean that Figure 2, in which the upper web is above the lower web and the absorbent layer, is the only orientation in which the absorbent pad will be used.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc A Patterson whose telephone number is 571-272-1497. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Marc A Patterson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794